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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,152	12/05/2003	Joseph William Lowry	AN18D1	1020

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EUSTATHIOS VASSILIOU  
TERMAX CORPORATION  
920 REMINGTON STREET  
SCHAUMBERG, IL 60173

EXAMINER

LUGO, CARLOS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center"><b>Office Action Summary</b></p>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/729,152	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LOWRY ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Carlos Lugo	<b>Art Unit</b> 3677	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-42, 45 and 46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-42, 45 and 46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. Figures 1a and 2a should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).
2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the elastic body must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Specification*

3. The specification is objected to because of the following informalities:
  - Page 13 Line 27, change "front point 32" as -front point 40-.
  - Page 14 Line 3, change "upper surface 42" as -upper surface 52-.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Objections*

4. **Claims 22,31 and 33 are objected** to because of the following informalities:
  - Claim 22 Line 2, delete the phrase "and a lower side" (because claim 21 already claims this limitation in line 3).
  - Claim 31 Line 2, change "portions" as -positions- (because claim 21 recites that the barbs are directed outwardly away from the legs and then inwardly toward

Art Unit: 3677

the legs, in other words, claim 21 is disclosing a position or movement, not a portion).

- Claim 33 Line 2, delete the phrase "and a lower side" (because claim 32 already claims this limitation in line 7).

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. **Claims 21-25,28-36,39-42 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat No 5,447,005 to Giannuzzi.

Regarding claims 21 and 32, Giannuzzi discloses a spring fastener comprising a substantially flat head portion (10) comprising a first hole (11) and at least a lower side (10a and 10b).

The spring fastener further comprises a neck (12 and 13) having an opening and two side neck portions. The neck extends from the lower side of the substantially flat head portion at a substantially right angle with respect to the substantially flat head portion.

The spring fastener further comprises two substantially flat legs (19 and 20) extending from the neck. Each leg has inner surfaces that are at an initial proximity with each other. The legs are expandable in opposite directions upon insertion

through the first hole of an expansion member (23 and 24), thus bringing the expansion member to a contact region of the legs. Each leg also has side leg portions.

The spring fastener further comprises a funnel configuration (14) in the vicinity of the contact region.

And the spring fastener further comprises barbs (15 and 17). The barbs have a front point and an origin. The origin is located at a region selected from the side neck portion and the side leg portion. The barbs are directed outwardly away from the legs (Figure 5, 15 and 17 points or are directed outwardly away from the legs 19 and 20) and then inwardly toward the legs (Figure 6, 15 and 17 points or are directed inwardly toward the legs 19 and 20).

The barbs (15 and 17) also have sliding portions in contact with at least one of the lower, upper, and side edges of the slot of a first part (21, at Figure 5).

As to claims 22 and 33, Giannuzzi discloses that the head portion of the fastener comprises an upper side.

As to claims 23 and 34, Giannuzzi discloses that the head portion of the fastener has a single side corresponding to the lower side (Figure 7).

As to claims 24 and 35, Giannuzzi discloses that the first hole is substantially round.

As to claims 25 and 36, Giannuzzi discloses that the hole is comprises an oblong opening (Figure 4).

Art Unit: 3677

As to claims 28-30 and 39-41, Giannuzzi discloses that the first hole (11) is engageable to the expansion member (23 and 24).

As to claims 31 and 42, Giannuzzi discloses that the outwardly and inwardly positions of the barbs have an angle, which angle is adequately large to allow the fastener to be removed from the first part without destruction of said fastener or said first part, when the removal takes place solely from the side of the first part, wherein the head of the fastener is positioned.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 26,27,37 and 38 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 5,447,005 to Giannuzzi in view of US Pat No 6,379,092 to Patel et al (Patel).

Giannuzzi fails to disclose that the fastener comprises an elastic body molded at least under the at least lower side of the head of the fastener.

Patel teaches that is known in the art to have a molded elastic body (7).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a molded elastic body, as taught by Patel, into a device as described by Giannuzzi, in order to give a sealing protection against the environment where the fastener is used.

Art Unit: 3677

9. **Claims 45 and 46 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 5,447,005 to Giannuzzi in view of US Pat No 6,709,210 to Lowry et al (Lowry '210).

Giannuzzi fails to disclose that the fastener is used in combination with a vehicle.

Lowry '210 teaches that is known in the art to have a similar spring fastener used in a vehicle.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the fastener in a vehicle, as taught by Lowry '210, into a device as described by Giannuzzi, because the fact where is going to be used the fastener does not affect the mechanism of it.

#### ***Conclusion***

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number is 703-305-9747. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 703-306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

Application/Control Number: 10/729,152  
Art Unit: 3677

Page 7

Carlos Lugo  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3677

March 31, 2004.



ROBERT J. SANDY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER